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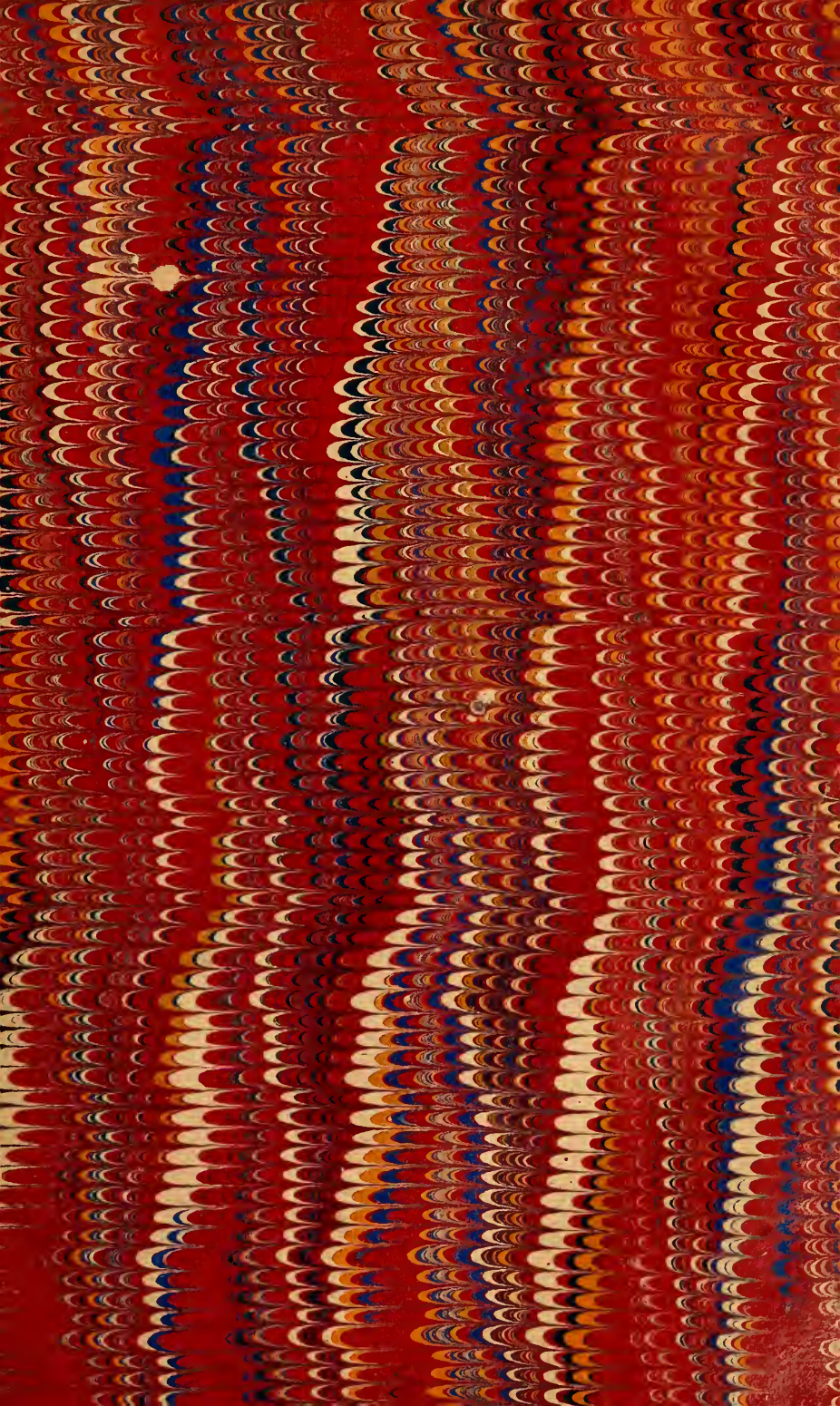
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.









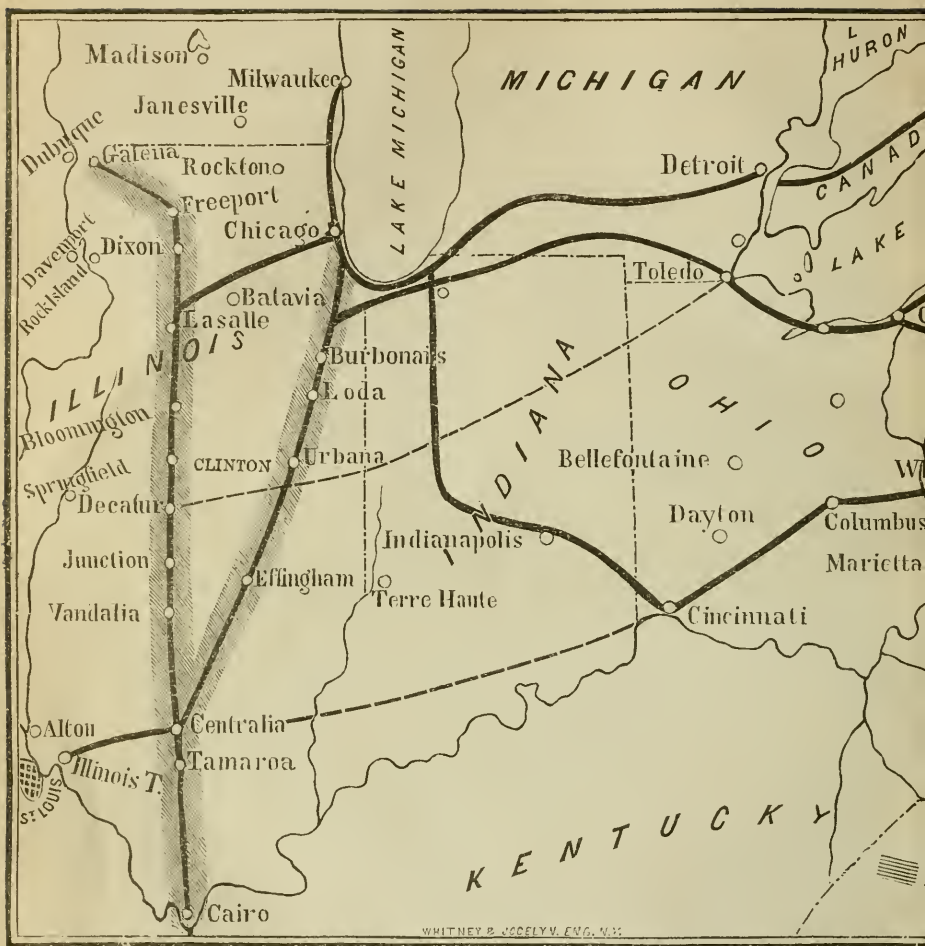


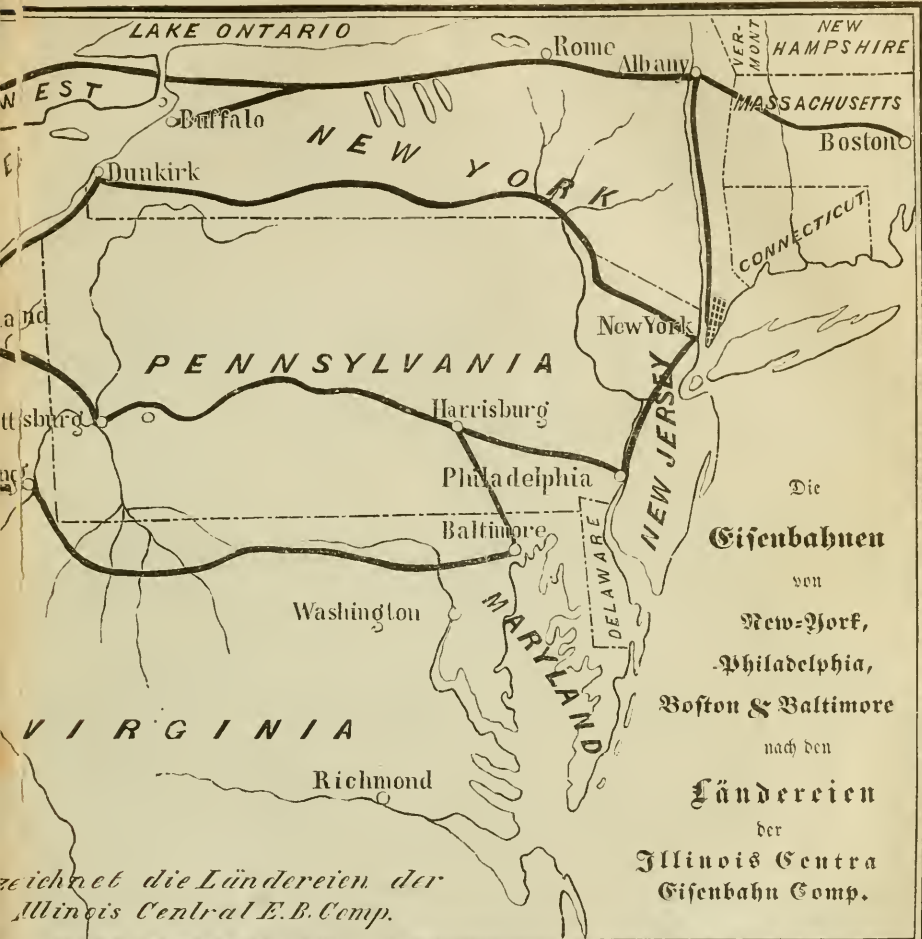


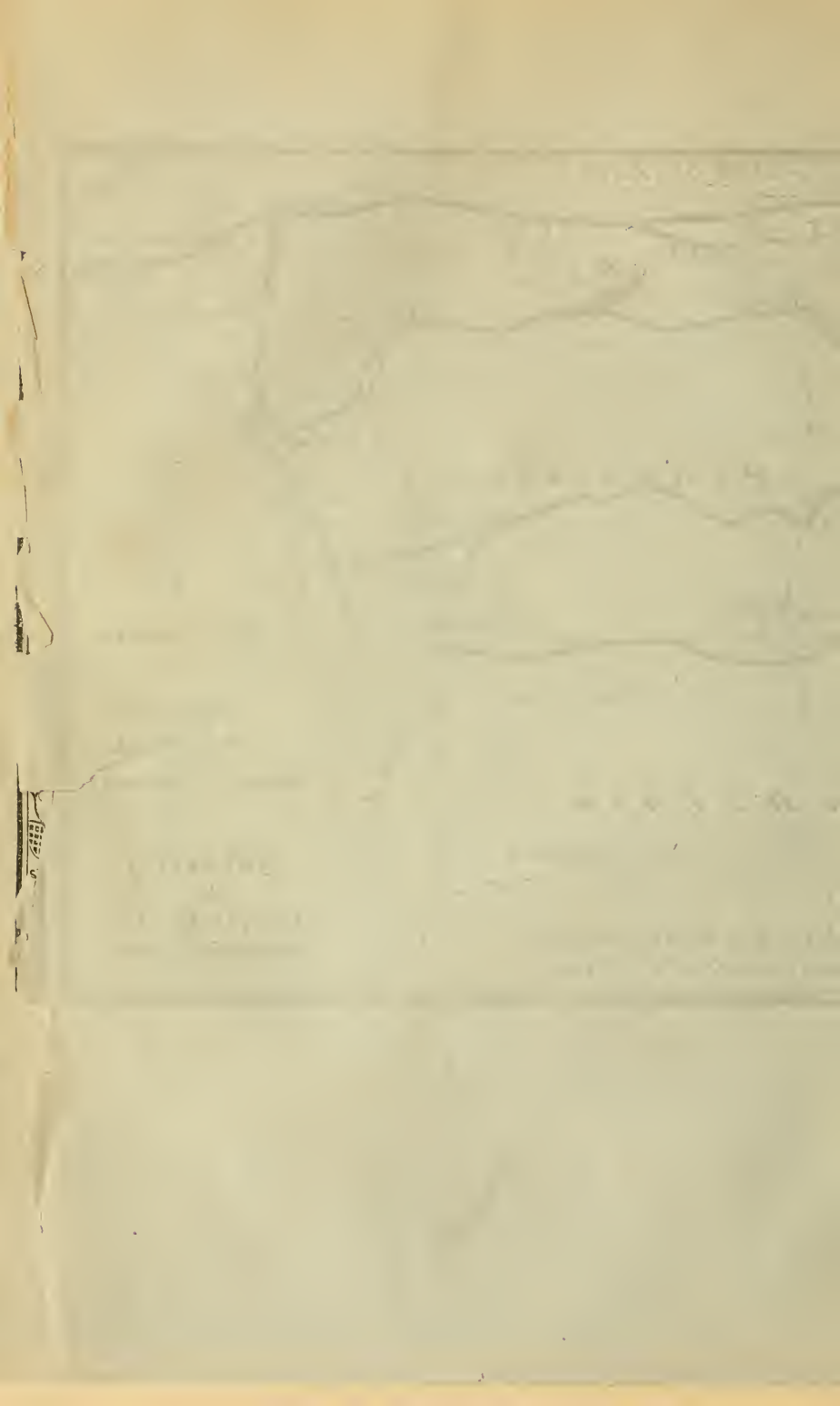














THE  
Illinois Central Rail-Road Company

OFFER FOR SALE

OVER 2,400,000 ACRES

SELECTED

PRAIRIE, FARM AND WOOD LANDS,

IN TRACTS OF ANY SIZE, TO SUIT PURCHASERS,

ON

LONG CREDITS, AND AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST,

SITUATED

ON EACH SIDE OF THEIR RAIL-ROAD, EXTENDING ALL THE WAY FROM THE  
EXTREME NORTH TO THE SOUTH OF THE

STATE OF ILLINOIS.



New-York :

JOHN W. AMERMAN, PRINTER,  
No. 60 WILLIAM-STREET.

1855.

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NOTE.—It has been found impossible to answer the large number of letters that are daily received in reference to these Lands. To such this Pamphlet will be sent in reply to the questions asked.

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# THE LANDS

OF THE

## ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAIL-ROAD COMPANY.

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### THE COMPANY'S TITLE TO THE LANDS.

THE Congress of the United States, on the 20th day of September, 1850, passed an act, granting to the State of Illinois *two millions five hundred and ninety-five thousand acres* of the Public Lands, to aid in the construction of a long line of Rail-Road throughout the State.

On the 10th of February, 1851, the Legislature of the State of Illinois passed an act to incorporate "The Illinois Central Rail-Road Company," granting to them the large body of lands which had been given by the General Government to encourage this enterprise, which was so important to open the rich prairies for settlement.

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### THE RAIL-ROAD ROUTE.

The Road commences at Dunleith, a town on the Mississippi, in the extreme north of the State, oppo-

site the city of Dubuque, in Iowa. It passes south 16 miles through Galena, the great lead region of the West. It then runs easterly 50 miles; after which it takes a southerly course, in almost a straight line, to Cairo, the extreme southern point of the State. Cairo is situated at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi, and is the point at which produce and merchandise are exchanged with the numerous steamboats floating on these great rivers. A branch of the Road leaves the main line 118 miles above Cairo, diverging to the northeast, and terminating at Chicago, on Lake Michigan, the *greatest grain-shipping port in the world*.

A daily freight and passenger train is now running between Cairo and Galena, and also between Chicago and Galena, and Chicago and Cairo. The trains will run through to Dunleith on the 1st of May. The Ohio and Mississippi Rail-Road connects with the Illinois Central at Sandoval, running to St. Louis.

By completing nearly 600 miles of Rail-Road, the company have formed connections with various Rail-Roads leading to different parts of this country. Thus every part of this State, and of the United States, is quickly reached, both by passengers and freight.

At every ten miles throughout its entire length, commodious and well-finished station and freight houses have been built. Around almost every one of these, villages are rapidly springing up; many of them already contain a population of from 500 to 1,500 people, where eighteen months ago there was not a single house.

The Road is built in the most superior manner. It is stocked with the very best locomotive engines, passenger and freight cars, that could be procured. The



charges for transporting passengers and freight are moderate.

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### LOCATION OF THE LANDS.

The lands are situated on each side of the Road between Dunleith and Cairo, on the main line, and between Chicago and Centralia, by the Chicago Branch. As it traverses north and south from end to end of the State, it passes through a great variety of climates. Lands may be thus selected in various latitudes, to suit the disposition of the purchaser. The Road passes immediately over some of the lands; others vary in distance from it from one to fifteen miles.

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### PRICE AND TERMS OF PAYMENT.

The price will vary from \$5 to \$25 per acre, according to location, quality, distance from stations, villages, &c. Contracts for deeds may be made during the year 1855, stipulating the purchase money to be made in five payments, with the succeeding years' interest added in advance. The first payment to be made in two years from the date of the contract, and the others annually thereafter.

*Interest will be charged at only two per cent. per annum.* As a security for the performance of the contract, the first two years' interest must be paid in advance.

For instance, suppose you buy on the 1st of April, 1855, eighty acres of selected prairie farm land, at

\$10 per acre, on the foregoing terms. Your account, until a deed is given, would stand thus :

<i>April 1, 1855.</i>	Received contract for a Deed for 80 Acres of Land, at \$10 per acre, (\$800,) and paid two years' Interest, at two per cent. per annum, in advance, . . . . .	\$32 00
" "	1857. Paid first instalment of principal, being one-fifth of \$800, . . . . .	\$160 00
	One year's Interest in advance on balance due, (\$640,) at two per cent. per annum, . . . . .	12 80—172 80
" "	1858. Paid second instalment, being one-fifth as above, . . . . .	160 00
	One year's Interest in advance on balance due, (\$480,) as above, . . . . .	\$9 60—169 60
" "	1859. Paid third instalment, being one-fifth as above, . . . . .	160 00
	One year's Interest in advance on balance due, (\$320,) as above, . . . . .	6 40—166 40
" "	1860. Paid fourth instalment, being one-fifth as above, . . . . .	160 00
	One year's Interest in advance on balance due, (\$160,) as above, . . . . .	3 20—163 20
" "	1861. Paid fifth instalment, being one-fifth as above, and received Deed, . . . . .	160 00
	Making the full payment, principal and interest, . . . . .	<u>\$864 00</u>

It must be understood that at least ten per cent. of the lands purchased shall be fenced and cultivated each year for five years, so as to have one-half of the purchase under improvement by the time the last payment becomes due.

It will be borne in mind that, until the payments are made and the deed of conveyance granted, these lands are not subject to taxation, by the 22d Section of the Act of the Legislature, approved Feb. 10, 1851.

## FUEL.

Wood is delivered at the stations along the line of the Road at \$3 and \$4 per cord. In the southern part of the State it is afforded in some places as low as \$2 per cord. Bituminous Coal, of good quality, is found at several points of the Road. It is sold at from \$1 50 to \$3 per ton.

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## THE VALUE OF THE LAND FOR FARMING PURPOSES.

Illinois is known throughout the United States as the Garden State of the Union. It is justly entitled to the name, from the extraordinary fertility of its soil. Its vast tracts of rich, rolling land, interspersed here and there with clumps of woodland, were called by the first French settlers "Prairies," which, translated, means natural meadows. Almost the whole State is a natural meadow. Trees are not required to be cut down, stumps grubbed, or stones picked off, as is too often the case in bringing new lands into cultivation in the Eastern and Middle States. There is nothing to obstruct the plough. The soil is readily turned over at the rate of two acres to two and a half per day, by a heavy team of horses, or two yoke of oxen. It can be contracted to be turned over for \$2 to \$2 50 per acre. It is a dark, rich soil, from one to five feet in depth. After the first year's tillage the ground is in a high state of cultivation. *It will then produce, with less labor, as large a crop as any farm in the Eastern or Middle States, valued at \$100 to \$150 per acre.*

It costs 1 cent per mile to transport ten bushels of wheat on the Illinois Central Rail-Road, from any part

of the State. It is shipped from Chicago to New-York at from 20 to 25 cents per bushel. The cost of transporting wheat direct from the Company's lands, one hundred miles from Chicago to New-York, is thus found to be from 30 to 35 cents per bushel. Corn costs about 27 cents per bushel to put into the New-York market from lands along the Rail-Road one hundred miles back of Chicago. The Company have large bodies of lands less than one hundred miles from Chicago.

Owing to the extraordinary fertility of their lands, with the *same expenditure* of labor as is bestowed on farms in the Eastern or Middle States, *a great deal more grain may be produced than to pay the additional expense of transportation of the crop to the New-York, Philadelphia, Boston, or any other Eastern market.* The crop may be sold at Chicago, at Eastern prices, less the freight to the Eastern market, and a small commission for attending to the business. Or, still better, the farmer can sell his crop delivered at the nearest Rail-Road station to his farm, at a trifling deduction from the Chicago prices.

Attention is requested to the letter of the Rev. JOHN BARGER, accompanying this, who sold his crop of wheat at \$1 per bushel, delivered at the Illinois Central Rail-Road Company's depot, at Clinton, one hundred and fifty-three miles from Chicago.

The Company have hundreds of thousands of acres of land, equally as good as that of Mr. Barger, lying immediately alongside of their Rail-Road track, from \$5 to \$25 per acre, in proportion to its distance from it. They have no lands further out than fifteen miles from the Road.



## COST OF MOVING TO CHICAGO.

### FARES FROM NEW-YORK TO CHICAGO, BY THE DIFFERENT ROUTES.

	First Class.	Emigrant.
Via New-York and Erie, Buffalo and Erie, Cleveland and Erie, Cleveland and Toledo, and Michigan Southern Rail-Roads, (distance 960 miles,) . . .	\$22 00	\$11 00
Via New-York and Erie, to Niagara Falls, Great Western, (Canada,) and Michigan Central Rail-Roads, (distance 960 miles,) . . . . .	22 00	11 00
Via New-York and Erie, to Buffalo, Buffalo and Brantford, (Canada,) Great Western, (Canada,) and Michigan Central Roads, (distance 950 miles,) . . . . .	22 00	11 00
Via Hudson River, New-York Central, Buffalo and Erie, Cleveland and Toledo, and Michigan Southern Roads, (distance 968 miles,) . . . . .	22 00	11 00
Via Hudson River, New-York Central, Great Western, (Canada,) and Michigan Central Roads, (distance 961 miles,) . . . . .	22 00	11 00
Via Hudson River, New-York Central, Buffalo and Brantford, (Canada,) Great Western, (Canada,) and Michigan Central Roads, (967 miles,) . . . . .	22 00	11 00
In summer, the fares by the above routes will be about . . . . .	18 00	9 00
In summer, passengers can go, via New-York and Erie, or Hudson River and New-York Central, to Buffalo, there connecting with Lake Erie steamers to Detroit or Monroe; thence, by Michigan Roads, to Chicago. Fare . . . . .	16 00	8 00

In summer, passengers can go by steamers on the Hudson River to Newburgh, there connecting with New-York and Erie Road; or to Albany, there connecting with New-York Central Road. Fare, one dollar less than above.

Children over four years and under twelve years, half price; under four years, free. Extra baggage, over one hundred pounds, \$2 per hundred.

Freight on farming tools and furniture, \$1 50 per hundred pounds, which should be boxed in packages, not too large, well hooped, and plainly marked with paint, and not with cards.

Prices from Boston and Philadelphia range at about the same rates.

Prices given for Corn, Wheat and Oats, at the Chicago Market, during the Season of 1854.

MONTHS.	CORN.	SPRING WHEAT.	WINTER WHEAT.	OATS.
January, . . .	33 to 40	93 to 95	106 to 115	26 to 26½
February, . . .	45 " 46	117 " 120	130 " 140	30 " 31
March, . . .	49 " 50	104 " 106	120 " 130	27 " 28½
April, . . .	43 " 44	100 " 100	112 " 120	26½ " 27
May, . . .	43 " 45	125 " 130	140 " 150	30 " 31
June, . . .	45 " 46	128 " 130	140 " 150	30 " 31½
July, . . .	50 " 51	95 " 100	115 " 120	31 " 33
August, . . .	54 " 55	95 " 110	140 " 150	29 " 30
September, . . .	60 " 61	100 " 120	130 " 140	32 " 33
October, . . .	54 " 55	90 " 105	130 " 140	33 " 34
November, . . .	50 " 52	120 " 125	130 " 145	32 " 33
December, . . .	46 " 47	100 " 110	112 " 125	23 " 28

What Articles it will be best to Bring out from the East.

**FURNITURE.**—Highly finished and costly furniture is mostly all brought from the East, and sold at a large advance in the West. If you use such furniture, it will pay you to have what you require boxed up and sent out from the East. Plain, substantial furniture, such as is generally used in farm-houses, can be had nearly if no quite as cheap as at the East. Stores of all kinds can be bought at reasonable prices.

**AGRICULTURAL TOOLS.**—Small agricultural tools are more extensively made at the East, but reaping, mowing and threshing machines are extensively made at the West. Spades, shovels, &c., you can buy cheaper at the East, but ploughs of different kinds you can buy as reasonable here.

**COWS AND OXEN.**—Good milch cows can be bought at from \$15 to \$20. Good, well-broke working oxen can be had at from \$50 to \$80 per yoke.

HORSES vary from \$50 to \$75 each. At these prices, good, strong-limbed, healthy animals can be purchased, suitable for farms. Horses are extensively and cheaply raised on the prairies for the Eastern market, and afford large profit.

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### Reaping and Threshing with Machinery by Contract.

REAPING MACHINES are almost altogether used at the West. They cost \$170. They will cut fourteen acres of wheat per day. Contracts for reaping are made at 62½ cents per acre. The contractor furnishes a driver and two horses; the farmer finds two horses, five binders and two shockers.

THRESHING MACHINES will thresh 300 bushels per day. It is generally contracted to be done at 5 cents per bushel, the contractor furnishing four horses and three hands; the farmer furnishes four more horses and five more hands, making in all eight hands, viz. : one driver, one feeder, one measurer, one to pitch sheaves, one to cut bands, and three to take away straw.

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### TOWN LOTS.

At about every ten miles along the Road, the company have erected large and commodious passenger, station and freight houses. Around most of these, dwellings and stores have been erected, since the completion of the Rail-Road. Merchants and mechanics are gathering at these stations, to accommodate the wants of the rapidly growing farming population surrounding them. At most of the stations the company

owns the town plats. Lots are offered on extremely liberal terms, to any who wish to purchase and build on them.

Great opportunities are offered at these various stations for embarking in the mercantile business, dealing in lumber or grain, pork and beef packing, or in a general produce business. A country so fruitful and productive, with a population rapidly filling it up, must make each and all of these profitable.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION.

Sectional Maps of the Lands of the Company, showing the precise position of every piece of land in various parts of the State, owned by the Company, can be had at the Chicago Land Office. Plats of their towns at the various stations throughout the State, can also be seen at that office. For any further information, apply personally or by letter, in English, French or German, to

CHARLES M. DU PUY, JR.,

LAND AGENT,

*No. 52 Michigan Avenue, Chicago.*

LAND DEPARTMENT, ILL. C. R. R. Co., }  
*Chicago, March 1, 1855.* }



# LETTERS IN REGARD TO SOIL, ETC.

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LETTER FROM REV. JOHN S. BARGER,

GIVING HIS EXPERIENCE IN BREAKING UP AND CULTIVATING A FARM IN  
THE VICINITY OF THE RAIL-ROAD.

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CLINTON, DE WITT CO., ILLINOIS, }  
January 22, 1855. }

Mr. CHARLES M. DU PUY, Jr.,

*Land Agent:*

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 8th ult. was received a few days since, and I now answer it, as soon as has been consistent with other obligations.

The statistical information, in the form of facts, substantiated by farmers throughout the State, which you propose embodying in your contemplated circular, designed to show “the result of well-directed efforts in Illinois farming,” and to which I have the honor of being requested to contribute, I regret to say, I am not so well prepared to give in detail, as many others; from whom doubtless you will obtain it. Nevertheless, I may at least say, that in your very complimentary remark, you judge correctly in part, that “among those who have broken up the wild prairie, and by judicious management realized large profits,” I have been “very successful.” Yet, when the fact is known, as it should be, in order to a correct judgment in my case, that I have been an itinerant minister in the M. E. Church, without any cessation, since 1823, (the 20th year of my age,) it will be reasonably concluded that I would have been yet more successful had my efforts and management been directed by the superior skill of a well-trained and practical farmer.

But, as you have particularly requested the facts in my own case, as heretofore explained to you, I here offer these facts, taken from my memoranda, for whatever use you may think proper to make of them, and will leave the other details you desire to other hands, better prepared to give them.

From 1848 to 1850, I purchased, in De Witt County, and nearly adjoining Clinton, (the County seat,) 400 acres of fine farming land

through which the Illinois Central Railway passes, and, in the vicinity, three timbered lots, containing 140 acres; making 540, at a cost of \$1,513 19. In the spring of 1853, I determined to make my farm, and accordingly contracted for the breaking of 300 acres, at \$600; also, for making 400 rods of fence, at \$4 75 per 100 rails in the fence, \$494 19; making, together, \$1,094 19. Having obtained the privilege of joining to 720 rods of fence on adjoining farms, I thus enclosed 360 acres, and had 280 prepared for seeding.

The breaking was done from the 27th of May to the 9th of July. The greater portion of this ploughed land might, therefore, have been planted in corn, and harvested in time for seeding with wheat; and thus I might have added considerably to the avails of the first year, had I not been 80 miles distant, engaged in the labors of the Jacksonville district.

I paid for seeding 300 acres, . . . . .	\$230 00	
“ “ 325 bushels seed wheat, . . . . .	243 75	
Add the cost of making the farm, . . . . .	1,094 19	\$1,567 94
I paid for harvesting, threshing, sacking and delivering at the Clinton Dépôt, distant from the farm from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles, . . . . .	1,650 00	
Making the entire expenditure, . . . . .		3,217 94
Sold, at the Clinton Dépôt, $4,378\frac{4}{9}$ bushels wheat, for . . . . .	4,378 82	
I kept for bread, . . . . .	50 00	
Making the gross income of the first year of . . . . .		4,428 82
From which take the entire expenditure, . . . . .		3,217 94
And you have the net proceeds of the first year, . . . . .		\$1,210 88
To which add the cost of making the farm, . . . . .		1,094 19
Making entire avails of the first year, . . . . .		<u>\$2,305 07</u>

Furthermore, to do justice to the productiveness of the soil, and to show what the well-directed efforts and judicious management of a well-trained and practical Illinois farmer would have done, it should be stated that, at least in my judgment, some 1,500 bushels of wheat were wasted by untimely and careless harvesting and threshing, equal to \$1,500 net proceeds. Then add \$55 33, excess of payments for ploughing and seeding only 280 acres, which a skilful farmer would have known before making his contracts, and you have a loss, which ought to have been a gain, of \$1,555 33. This amount saved would have showed the avails of the first year's operation, on 280 acres of the farm, to have been \$3,860 40.

Now, Sir, if one under such circumstances, with but little more than a theoretical knowledge of farming, has succeeded even thus well, having hired all the labor, and mostly at very high prices, how much larger profits might have been realized by a skilful and practical farmer devoting his whole time and attention to his appropriate occupation? How much more successful thousands of farmers and farmers' sons on our Eastern seaboard, and in our Eastern States might be, were they, or could they, be induced to move on, and apply their skill, industry and economy in the cultivation of the rich and productive prairies of Illinois.

Let them come, by thousands and tens of thousands—there is room enough—and examine the country. They will find rich lands and good water, and general health, almost everywhere. This is not a wilderness. They will find schools and churches springing up in almost every settlement made, and now being made, throughout the State. Illinois is not a moral desolation. It literally and spiritually “blossoms as the rose.” Let them come to Chicago, and go to Galena, and visit Cairo. But let them not remain at either place, unless they choose. The Illinois Central Rail-Road and its branches traverse the finest portions of the globe. Let them glide through our State on these and other roads, now checkering almost the entire of this “garden of the Lord,” and stop where they will, to “examine the land, of what sort it is,” and they will no longer consent to digamong the rocks, and plough the sterile lands of their forefathers. But they will long bless the day when they found for themselves and their children such comfortable homes as they still may obtain, in this rich and beautiful prairie State, destined soon to compare with, nay, to surpass, in all the most desirable respects, the most prosperous State in the Union.

I will now give you a concise history of the operations of Mr. Funk. Both before and since his marriage, he had made rails for his neighbors at twenty-five cents per 100. But when the lands where he lived came into market, 25 years ago, he had saved of his five years' earnings, \$1,400, and says, if he had invested it all in lands he would now have been rich. With \$200 he bought his first quarter section, and loaned to his neighbors \$800, to buy their homes; and with the remaining \$400 he purchased a lot of cattle. With this beginning, Mr. Funk now owns 7,000 acres of land, has near 2,700 in cultivation, and his last year's sale of cattle and hogs, at the Chicago market, amounted to a little over \$44,000.

Mr. ISAAC FUNK, of Funk's Grove, nine miles distant from his brother Jesse, and ten miles northwest from Bloomington on the Mis-

issippi and Chicago Rail-Road, began the world in Illinois at the same time, having a little the advantage of Jesse, so far as having a little borrowed capital. He now owns about 27,000 acres of land, has about 4,000 acres in cultivation, and his last sales of cattle at Chicago amounted to \$65,000.

These families have enjoyed almost uninterrupted health. Mr. Isaac Funk has had 10 children, and Mr. Jesse Funk 8. In the family of Isaac, one died of fever; and in that of Jesse, one by an accidental fall from a wagon.

Yours, truly,

JOHN S. BARGER.

#### EXTRACT FROM A LETTER OF B. G. ROOT.

"Fencing is the hardest work which a new settler here has to perform. Good white oak rails, laid up in fence, where it is required, are worth from \$2 to \$3 per hundred. To lessen the cost of fencing, it is very desirable for several friends to settle together, so that the land at first may be enclosed in one common field. 4,704 rails will fence 20 acres; 6,720 will fence 40 acres; 13,440 rails will fence 160 acres; 28,880 rails will fence one section, or 640 acres.

"The spring following that which the prairie sod is broken up, a Mac-lura hedge should be set out around the portion chosen by each individual. Many of my neighbors make their own hedges, but as a man can always dispose of his labor to advantage here, I believe it cheaper to buy it than to make it. Hedging has become a trade, to which a class of men devote themselves. They furnish the plants, set them in the ground, and cultivate them for four years, at 15 cents per rod a year, making the whole cost of hedge 60 cents per rod. At the expiration of four years, when the last payment upon the hedge is due, it is a perfect barrier against bulls, pigs and all other animals. The rails of which the outside fence was made are then sold to somebody else, or used to make interior fences. They will last for twenty years, and I know not how much longer. Sixteen years ago, I purchased an *old improvement*. Most of the rails with which it was enclosed are still good.

"New prairie is broken to advantage from the 15th of April to the 10th of July, but I prefer to have it broken from the 10th of May to the 10th of June. That which is broken previous to the 10th of June, I



plant in corn, which yields from 20 to 45 bushels per acre. As it receives no cultivation after it is planted, it is more affected by good or bad seasons than crops which are cultivated. That which is broken up after the 10th of June is sown with wheat in September, and always yields well. Corn which is planted before the 20th of May is often cut up and wheat sown on the same ground in September or October; but wheat which is sown so late is sure not to produce as well as that sown early. Oats do not do very well upon prairie, until the ground has been cultivated two or three years; but the year following that on which it is first broken up, it is in excellent condition to produce wheat, barley, corn, flax-seed, castor beans, and every kind of garden vegetable which is raised in New England, and excellent sweet potatoes in abundance.

"With a good plough and two pairs of good horses, one man can break up one and a half acres per day, of the new prairie. Two good yoke of cattle will break up nearly the same quantity of ground, but in this case a boy is required to drive them. Three good yoke of cattle will break two acres per day. Previous to 1853, the customary price for breaking prairie was from \$1 50 to \$2 per acre; but in 1853 the common price was \$2 50 per acre; and, as the demand for labor always exceeds the supply, I think it will not be less than this sum for several years to come.

"Common farm hands receive from \$110 to \$130 per annum, and their board. I employ a good practical working farmer, who takes charge of every thing pertaining to the farm. I furnish him house, garden and fruit trees, free of rent, and pay him \$250 per annum. He, with the aid of a boy twelve years of age, five breeding mares and \$10 worth of occasional aid, attends to forty acres in corn, ten in wheat, ten in oats, six in flax, (cultivated only for the seed,) ten in meadow of old ground, and breaks up and plants in sod corn twenty acres of new prairie. We commence planting corn from the 1st to the 20th of April, and finish from the 1st to the 10th of June. I once raised an excellent crop planted on the 23d of June. I cut up my corn stalks near the ground, before the frost comes, and shock it up. We pull the ears from that which is to be fed to dry cows and steers, who do well on the fodder and such nubbins as are left upon it. If we wish to fatten cattle in the winter, we give them the fodder with the ears all remaining on it.

"At the stations on the rail-road we can sell every thing we can spare at nearly Chicago or New Orleans prices, less the cost of transportation. I believe the charge from here to Chicago is 24 cents per bushel.

"We raise what is here called sugar-corn, to eat green. We have it fit



for cooking from the 20th of June till October. We raise two crops of this and one crop of turnips on the same ground in one season. We receive, in excellent condition, fresh fish from the lake, via Chicago, and tropical fruits via New Orleans and Cairo. The facility with which we dispose of whatever we have to sell, and procure whatever we wish to purchase, the mildness of the climate and the fertility of the soil, render this a most desirable residence. If you will once visit us, you will abandon all idea of settling in Iowa. You will learn all you wish to know respecting the terms upon which land can be procured, from the pamphlet which I send you. After your farm is once fenced, you will have very little use for timber land. Coal here is rapidly taking the place of wood, as fuel. If wood were furnished free at my door, in logs of ten feet, I could not afford to burn it. I buy coal at such a rate, that it is cheaper to burn it than to prepare wood for stoves and fire-places. Coal is so abundant that all southern Illinois will always be supplied at a low rate.

"Numerous saw-mills are being erected in the timber along the railroad, south of Big Muddy River. Some are completed, and lumber yards are established at almost every station, where the pine of the North meets the poplar, cypress, black walnut, sycamore, maple and oak, from the South. There are saw-mills in the smaller portions of timber which occur at short intervals in this part of the State, but they are fully occupied in supplying the demand in their immediate vicinity.

"I planted an orchard of apple and peach trees in 1843. The peach trees commenced bearing in 1845, and the apple in 1847; and, although the yield is not uniform in amount, we have enough excellent fruit every year. My cherries, currants, gooseberries and grapes have received very little attention, but they yield abundantly. Clover is a difficult crop to start, well, but when once well set, it thrives. Timothy, red orchard grass and blue grass, set easily after the prairie has been cultivated, and yield well. The greatest difficulty here is the want of labor. It is so easy to become the owner of land, that almost every man who is worth hiring, becomes the owner of a farm within a few years, and wants to hire laborers himself.

"Very respectfully,

"B. G. ROOT."

## LETTER FROM A. J. GALLOWAY.

FARM IN THE VICINITY OF THE COMPANY'S LANDS.

EWINGTON, Effingham Co., Illinois, }  
 February 12, 1855. }

CHARLES M. DU PUX, Esq.,

*Land Agent Illinois Central Rail-Road :*

Dear Sir,—My residence in Illinois began in April, 1837. During the first four years I resided in Wabash County, after which I removed to the northern part of the State, and in 1842, purchased some lands in La Salle County. From that until the present time, I have been making, cultivating and extending my farm.

The subsoil of the prairie land throughout the State, with a few exceptions, is a compact clay, through which water settles but slowly, thus securing great durability to the natural soil, as well as effectually preventing the escape of artificial manures, by the process of leeching. Upon very level prairie, this characteristic causes the land to be too wet for the profitable cultivation of the several kinds of grain, without some special preparation; this, however, may be almost universally overcome by manuring, and deep and thorough ploughing; deep ploughing alone will prove effectual in a large majority of instances.

South of the parallel of forty-one degrees north latitude, the staple production is, and must continue to be, Indian corn or maize, though almost all grain and vegetables, grown in a temperate climate, may be profitably cultivated, and should not be neglected.

During my residence upon my farm in La Salle County, our average crop of corn, say on a field of eighty acres, did not vary much from fifty bushels per acre. Winter wheat, (for I think spring wheat a nuisance,) upon a field of thirty acres, varied in different years from nineteen to twenty-three bushels per acre, harvested with McCormick's Reaper, and threshed and separated by machines built at Alton, Illinois. Oats varied from forty to sixty bushels per acre, and in one instance, upon a small lot of four acres, I obtained almost one hundred bushels per acre.

My estimate for the cost of production and preparation for market, previous to 1850, after allowing thirty-three per cent. of the crop for the use of the land, was forty cents per bushel for wheat, and about fifteen cents per bushel for corn and oats.

I could usually obtain good farm hands (men) at one hundred to one hundred and twenty dollars per year, with board and lodging furnished.

The many difficulties with which a single hand upon a farm has to

contend, render it hard to say what one man, with a pair of horses, can cultivate properly—certainly not to exceed forty acres; whereas, two men, with four horses, could readily manage a hundred acres, and three men, with about five horses, one hundred and sixty acres, in addition to the usual amount of land devoted to meadow and grasses.

In reply to your ninth interrogatory, I would say that south of the parallel I have mentioned, nearly one-half of the whole farm devoted to grain and vegetables, should be planted in corn, and three-fourths of the remainder in wheat and oats, in about equal quantities. The cultivation of barley, rye, potatoes, &c., should be governed by the character of the farm, its position in relation to markets, and somewhat by the tastes, education and habits of the farmer.

In La Salle County, where wood land is not so plenty as it is in this region, a good common rail fence would cost about seventy-five cents per rod, but I have contracted for a number of miles of such fence, eight rails high, staked and riddered, with a sound block under each corner, to be built in this and some other counties for the Illinois Central Rail-Road, at the rate of fifty cents per rod.

I have tried different methods of turning up or breaking prairie sod, and am fully satisfied that where the prairie is clear, that is, destitute of hazel bushes or other woody growth, a man who understands the business, with a good pair of horses and a plough properly constructed, such as was manufactured a few years since in Indian Town, Bureau County, can do the work better and cheaper than in any other way that has ever come under my observation. One acre and a half per day is a fair average for such a team. Prairie should always be broken between the 10th of May and the 20th of June, in the latitude of La Salle County. In this county the work should be completed as early as the 10th of June.

For persons wishing to make a settlement in Illinois, I should advise about the same course for almost any part of the State with which I am acquainted. The first thing such person should do is to make a personal examination of the country, and select a location. Then if he should have the means to spare, and could purchase forty or eighty acres of good prairie land, not more than five miles from where materials for building, fencing and fuel can be obtained, at reasonable rates, and get a long credit upon three-fourths of the purchase money, I should advise him to secure it at once.

He should then procure a good pair of horses and wagon, a cow, a few pigs, and some poultry, and two good ploughs, one for breaking prairie and

the other for cultivating land already subdued. Thus provided, it would be well if he could rent a small tenement with a few acres of improved land near his own, for a year or two, until he could get his farm under way. But if no such tenement could be obtained, he should at once build a cheap house upon his own land, and push forward his improvements.

Prairie sod broken in the manner and at the time heretofore stated, will be sufficiently rotten to cross plough as early as the tenth of August. This cross ploughing should not be neglected, and in the north of the State wheat should be sown broad-cast, and harrowed both ways, or drilled in by a proper machine, about the first of September. Wheat sown upon such land in this manner, rarely fails to produce an excellent crop. The next two years after the wheat is taken off the ground, two good crops of corn may be produced, with comparatively little labor. Oats is perhaps the proper grain for the fourth crop; and by that time, if the new settler be a man of reasonably perceptive powers, he will have made himself sufficiently well acquainted with the soil, climate, rotation of crops, etc., to manage his farm to good advantage. Much may be learned from the many agricultural periodicals with which our country abounds, and no farmer should be without one or more of these valuable aids. But, to succeed well, he must thoroughly investigate the local peculiarities of his own neighborhood, and especially those of his own farm.

There is a general and growing disposition throughout the State to educate; and in a very few years all the educational facilities which exist in the Eastern States will be at the command of the citizens of Illinois.

There is little disease at any time in the State, which may not be traced, directly or indirectly, to derangement in the biliary organs, and much of this should, no doubt, be attributed to the free use of heavy bread, strong coffee, and a large amount of animal food, to the partial or total exclusion of vegetable diet. I think I am free from prejudice when I say that, except in the valleys of the larger streams, but more especially upon the high rolling prairies of middle and northern Illinois, a more healthy country is not to be found, even in the mountainous districts of the older States.

In these hasty lines I have endeavored to answer some of your interrogatories as categorically as their nature would permit, without attempting to sustain my opinions by argument. If they should prove of the least service to you or others, I shall be more than compensated for the very little time and attention which I have felt at liberty to bestow upon them.

Respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

A. J. GALLOWAY.



## LETTER FROM C. G. TAYLOR.

PLEASANT RIDGE, Rock Island Co., Ill., }  
*February 8th, 1855.* }

CHARLES M. DU PUY, Esq.:

Dear Sir,—I was raised in Jefferson County, N. Y., in and among the log cabins, stumps, rocks and snow banks. My father was a farmer. I know full well what it costs to farm in Northern New-York, from the felling of the first tree, to the farm under good cultivation. I moved to this State in the spring of 1844, and have been engaged in farming most of the time since. The soil of Illinois is a dark, rich mould, varying from two to six feet in depth, of clay bottom. There is but little sandy soil in this part of the State. About one-tenth is covered with timber, and that usually on the borders of our rivers and small streams. Timber land is held at from \$10 to \$50 per acre, according to location and quality.

Our water is usually hard. There are not many springs, owing to the lowness of the land, but water is easily obtained by digging, and usually found in abundance, at the depth of from ten to twenty-five feet. There is, in general, a great supply of water for cattle, in our ravines and sloughs.

Stone and brick for cellars are scarce on our prairies, but cement, plastered on a mud wall, answers very well, and makes a neat and dry cellar. Fencing materials are also scarce. Pine lumber and oak posts are now mostly used by the new settlers. This kind of fence can be put up at about 80 to 90 cents per rod; depending, however, somewhat on the distance it has to be hauled. Materials for building are procured in rafts on our rivers, or at Chicago, and taken by team or rail-road, to any part of the State.

The breaking of prairie is mostly done in May and June, and generally with ox-teams of four or six yoke,—the plough cutting a furrow from sixteen to twenty-two inches wide and about three inches deep. Of late, however, so many improvements have been made in the form and draught of ploughs, that much of our vast prairie lands can easily be broken with one pair of horses, which can plough from one and a quarter to one and a half acres per day, which is preferable to that done with a large plough. This every farmer can do with his own team, and cheaper than to hire and pay \$2 50 per acre. I broke fifteen acres last summer, at the rate of one and a half acres per day, with a pair of mares, each having colts, and did it to perfection. The ploughs are made at Moline, in this county,



at the rate of one hundred and fifty per week, by J. Drew. They are made of the best German steel for \$16. A rolling coulter is better. These ploughs are scattered, by rail-roads, all over the State.

Sod corn, if planted in the month of May, and the weather is not too warm, will yield, per acre, from twenty to forty bushels. The planting is done by sticking an ax or a spade between the layers of sod, and, after dropping the corn, apply the *heel of the boot* freely. It needs no culture. If a very light crop of corn is raised, the stalks may be removed and the ground sown with winter wheat. If a heavy crop of corn is raised, it will take too much work to clear the ground of the stalks, and the stumps and roots will be a great hindrance to the harrow, as the corn roots are strongly set in the sod. As sod corn cannot be relied on with safety, it is, perhaps, better to let the sod lie until September, and then sow with wheat, and harrow thoroughly. This is almost invariably a sure crop, more so than any of the after ones, as the sod holds the roots during our usually dry and snowless winter. Or, the sod may lie till spring, and then be sown with spring wheat, and harrowed only. Let it be cross-ploughed, and we have what no field can be in the Eastern States, with all the manure combined. The soil being a black mould, and very mellow, any thing will grow in it that grows in this latitude. Spring wheat and oats are liable to grow too rank. They should be sown as soon as the frost is out of the ground, that the straw may have a stunted growth. If sown late, say after the first of April, too much straw is grown, which is liable to cause the wheat to blast, smut, &c. We have no summer fallows in this section, having seen none in Illinois. We raise but little winter wheat after the first crop, on the first breaking, until we break up a tame meadow or pasture; then again we have a fine crop. Our usual mode of raising spring wheat, oats and barley, is to sow on the fall ploughing, or on corn ground without ploughing, only harrowing. I raised over twenty-five bushels per acre, of the best of wheat, last year, on corn ground, without ploughing, and sixty bushels of oats. One team can do the work on a farm of fifty or sixty acres, if all the breaking is done. All stubble land should be ploughed in the fall, and be ready for the small grain in the spring. One man and two horses can easily tend thirty to forty acres of corn, one ploughing for which is sufficient; then mark off both ways, rows about three and a half feet wide, and plant the seed with a machine or a hoe. A man can cover four acres per day; a small boy can drop the seed. Harrow with a three-cornered harrow, by knocking out the forward teeth, so soon as the corn is out of the ground, then use the cultivator or one-horse plough, and work it both ways; twice work-

ing after harrowing is sufficient; no hoeing required. A fair yield of winter wheat is about twenty-five bushels per acre; spring wheat, twenty to thirty; oats, forty to seventy-five; barley, twenty to forty; winter rye, twenty to thirty; corn, forty to eighty; potatoes, 100 to 300.

We commence to harvest our corn about the 10th of October. There is more harvested in December than in any other month. Corn can be raised and cribbed at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents per bushel. Our small grain is all cut by machinery. A machine followed by six binders cut and shock from ten to fifteen acres per day. Price of cutting, 50 to  $62\frac{1}{2}$  cents per acre. To binders, we pay from \$1 to \$1 25 per day. As it is impossible to house all our grain, it is stacked. Threshing is also done by machinery. This, with cleaning, will cost 5 cents per bushel for wheat; oats,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents. The straw is usually stacked, to which the cattle have free access during the winter.

Our market is at Chicago or St. Louis. No part of our State is far from rail-road or steamboat shipping, having about 1,800 miles of the former now in good running order, and about 1,000 miles of river navigation.

Our charges correspond with the Eastern market, with the freight charge deducted.

Our soil is well calculated for the production of the tame grasses. Our meadows yield from one and a half to three tons per acre. Ground that has been mown for ten or fifteen years, produces better crops than the new land, because the top soil, which is principally composed of decayed grass and the ashes deposited by annual burnings, is very loose and open. After deep ploughing, and comparatively using up this top soil, we obtain a more compact and fine soil, which will hold the roots of the grass firm and secure. Clover grows luxuriously, but the trouble is, there is not a sufficient quantity sown to supply the great demand.

There has, until lately, but little attention been paid to the raising of stock. At this present time, we can boast of being equal to the other States, in some choice selections of the best stock in the Union. Only a small portion of our prairie is yet broken. The cattle roam as upon a "thousand hills" during the summer; but in the winter are fed upon straw, standing corn stalks and prairie hay. Very little corn fodder is cut and cured, being too heavy to handle. Probably nine-tenths of our hay, as yet, is cut upon our prairies, which makes, if well cured, excellent feed. Any quantity of this hay can be cut in any section, yielding from one to three tons per acre. I have fed, for several winters, between sixty and ninety head of cattle upon prairie hay, and have not lost a

single one by disease. Our hay is cut by mowing machines at 50 to 62½ cents per acre. It costs, counting work, board of hands, &c., about one to two dollars per ton in the stack. The feed for a cow, aside from grain, will not exceed \$3 per year. Our pasture is free. Our prairie grass is fully equal to tame grass for butter, cheese, &c., up to the time of frost, which is usually about the 10th of October. The product from my dairy of about thirty-five cows, for the last six years, has been on an average about \$20 per cow, beside the slop for hogs, and the feed for nearly as many calves. Last year the price of butter in this part of the State was twelve and a half cents per pound; cheese nine to twelve and a half cents. I think these figures will be near the standard for years to come.

In regard to fruit, I would just mention that Whiteside County, Illinois, took the first prize at New-York last fall. Apple trees, to any amount and of all varieties, can be had in our nurseries from 12½ to 15 cents a piece. No new or old settler should fail to raise the Osage Orange or Maclura hedge. With proper care, in four years he will have a *living* fence, the entire cost of which will not have exceeded 25 cents per rod. How beautiful will our State appear, in a few more years, with our farms surrounded by this evergreen shrub. There is no State in the Union that can support so large a population as Illinois. Now not more than one-twelfth part of the surface is under cultivation. There is scarcely an acre that can be called *waste ground*. We have no mountains nor rocks; no stumps to grub out; no stones to pick off, and seldom a snow bank to wallow through. I believe if this State were cultivated as New-York or Massachusetts, it would *feed* the Union. The population is about 1,000,000. A grant of one thirty-sixth part of land is set apart by Congress for public schools. Our State debt will all be paid in a few years, by the internal resources, without the increase of taxation. This debt has been a bug-bear to some of our Eastern friends, declining to locate with us, for fear of being obliged to help pay it. This objection is now removed. Why the Eastern emigrants seek a home in Nebraska, Minnesota or even Iowa, is strange to my mind. Illinois has all the advantages that any reasonable man could desire. Our rail-roads are now so connected that we have access to any part of the Union, and the Eastern market is brought to our very doors.

For the information of some who are desirous to know more definite particulars, I will here add the course pursued by my first neighbor,

WILLIAM WAITE, in starting his prairie farm. In the spring of 1853 he bought eighty acres of prairie, for \$4,50 per acre, making

Whole value of the entire farm to be only.....	\$360	
Broke 60 acres, at \$2 50 per acre.....	150	
Fenced 60 acres, \$1 per rod, 400 rods of board fence.....	400	
Sowed 40 acres with winter wheat, $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre, at \$1 per bushel.....	60	
Sowing and harrowing, 75 cents per acre.....	30	
Harvesting and marketing, \$1 50 per acre.....	60	
Threshing and cleaning 1,100 bushels, at 10 cents per bushel....	110	
Hauling 15 miles to rail-road, 6 cents per bushel.....	66	\$1,236

Planted twenty acres with corn:

Ploughing 20 acres in the spring, at 75 cents.....	\$15	
Marking off and planting.....	15	
Cultivating, at \$1 25 per acre.....	25	
Harvesting, at \$1 per acre.....	20	
Threshing and hauling 15 miles, to rail-road, 1,000 bushels, at 10 cents per bushel.....	100	\$175

Total cost of farm and crops..... \$1,411

1,100 bushels of wheat, at \$1 15 per bushel.....	\$1,265	
1,000 bushels of corn, at 28 cents per bushel.....	280	
Total amount of crops.....		<u>\$1,545</u>

Profits of 60 acres, after paying all expenses, &c.,..... \$134

and 20 acres of land unbroken. This farm is now worth \$25 per acre.

Respectfully yours,

C. G. TAYLOR.

#### LETTER FROM W. H. MUNN, ESQ., MARSHALL CO., ILL.

MR. DU PUY:

Dear Sir,—Yours of the 2d instant, containing many important questions relative to what an industrious farmer can do on the prairies of Illinois, has been received, and though I am very busy at this time grafting, I will not delay giving you a brief reply.

You ask me to state my own case, but I wish to be excused, for I have devoted the most of my time and attention to the cultivation of the Maclura hedge plant, ever since I have been a resident of the State.

An industrious man, who has but a small capital (\$200 to \$400) to commence with, can soon have a farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, in good state of cultivation, provided he has health, and is a good economist.

In the first place he must put up a shanty of some kind to live in; then some kind of a cheap fence that will turn cattle and horses, (these being the only stock permitted to run at large,) for four or five years, and by that time he can have a good living fence that will turn all kinds of stock, and be as durable almost as the land upon which it stands.



About the 1st of May is the time to commence breaking prairie. A good pair of horses will turn from one and a half to two acres per day.

What is not planted in corn should be sown in fall wheat, and will generally turn off about twenty bushels per acre. New land is the best for wheat, and the third crop is considered the best for corn.

Prairie breaking is worth from \$2 to \$2 25 per acre. Good hands demand here, for the last two years, from \$175 to \$200 per annum.

After the first year's crop, we get from ten to twenty bushels of wheat per acre, and from thirty to fifty of corn. An industrious man can manage eighty acres, by having a little help in seed time and harvest. The prairie grass makes excellent hay for cattle and horses. It is somewhat difficult to sell the crop in the field, as every man has as much of his own raising to harvest as he can get done in good time.

I have travelled considerably, but I know of no other State that affords to the farmer so many conveniences as this one. It costs but little to make a farm, and when it is made it is a good one—one that, with proper management, will always yield a good crop, which, delivered at some rail-road station, will always bring a good price. Improvements pay well, should you wish to sell the farm.

The above was written in great haste, and the half is not told. You may use it if you think it will be of any service to you or any one.

Yours, very respectfully, W. H. MUNN.

#### LETTER FROM J. AMBROSE WIGHT, ESQ.,

EDITOR OF THE PRAIRIE FARMER.

CHARLES M. DU PUY, Esq.:

Dear Sir,—At your request I would state that, from an acquaintance with Illinois lands and Illinois farmers, of eighteen years, thirteen of which I have been engaged as editor of the *Prairie Farmer*, I am prepared to give the following as the rates of produce which may be had per acre, with ordinary culture:

Winter wheat,.....	15	to	25	bushels.
Spring wheat,.....	10	to	20	"
Indian corn,.....	40	to	70	"
Oats,.....	40	to	80	"
Potatoes,.....	100	to	200	"
Grass, (timothy and clover),.....	1½	to	3	tons.

"Ordinary culture" on prairie lands is not what is meant by the term in the Eastern or Middle States. It means, here, no manure; and commonly *but once*, or, at most, twice ploughing, on perfectly smooth land, with long furrows, and no stones or obstructions; when two acres per



day is no hard job for one team. It is often but very poor culture, with shallow ploughing, and without attention to weeds.

I have known crops, not unfrequently, far greater than these, with but little variation in their treatment; say forty to fifty bushels of winter wheat, sixty to eighty of oats, three hundred\* of potatoes, and one hundred of Indian corn. "*Good culture*," which means rotation, deep ploughing, farms well stocked, and some manure, applied at intervals of from three to five years, would, in good seasons, very often approach these latter figures.

Yours, truly, J. AMBROSE WIGHT.

January 9, 1855.

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LETTER FROM H. H. HENDRICK.

BATAVIA, KANE Co., Ill., *Feb. 21, 1855.*

CHARLES DU PUY, Esq.:

Dear Sir,—Your letter and circular of February 2d was received a few days since. Owing, I suppose, to the obstructions of the rail-roads by the snow, and further, as I have changed my place of residence, and purchased a small place near Batavia, your letter was first sent to Northville, and then back to Batavia, which retarded it still longer. But I will now endeavor to answer your questions, from my own experience, as well as I can.

When I first came to Illinois, in November, 1835, I had but small means to commence with in a new country. The next spring I went eighteen miles north of Chicago, and purchased a claim (as it was then called) of one hundred and sixty acres, and commenced improvement. I practiced surveying to some extent, which enabled me to purchase necessities, till I could procure them from my own soil. After staying there six years, not liking that portion of the country very well, I sold out, and purchased upwards of two hundred acres on the west side of Fox River, twenty miles above Ottowa, for which I paid a little less than \$2 50 per acre. I then commenced improving it; and as my means were still very limited, I was obliged to proceed with caution. However, I got up a house, fenced and broke up seventy acres in two seasons, with very little help. My plough cut about twenty or twenty-two inches, and I broke about two acres per day, with four yoke of cattle, the sod being very tough. I sometimes put on five yoke. I then sowed twenty acres with winter wheat, on ground from which one crop had been taken, and twenty acres of spring wheat, on new prairie, after the ground had been ploughed again in the spring. The whole was good, and yielded twenty

bushels per acre, of the first quality. But, as wheat was then, and for several years afterwards, very low, and we had to transport it a long distance to market with teams, it little more than paid the expense of raising, &c. One year I had twenty-five bushels of wheat on ground from which one crop of corn had been taken; and had the weather been not quite so hot a few days before harvest, I think it would have yielded thirty bushels. My average crops have been from fifteen to twenty-two bushels per acre; one year, and only one, I had but thirteen and one half bushels.

The best way, I think, to raise winter wheat on new prairie, is to break it in June very shallow, and cross-plough it a little deeper than it was broke, about the end of August; then sow and harrow it well, and leave it as rough as you can. If among corn, sow about the last of August or first of September, and put it in with a double shovel plough, by going twice in a row. Stock must not be allowed to run on it, unless the ground is covered with snow. The stalks must be cut or broken down in the spring. To break them down, I take a pole, ten or twelve feet in length, and hitch a team to it so as to draw it sideways, when the snow is off, and the ground and stalks frozen, and break three rows at once. One man and team will break thirty acres in a day. I roll all my small grain in the spring, and think it grows even, and know it is better harvesting. Wheat does well on the sod, if put in as I describe, often yielding twenty bushels or more per acre. Corn on sod is rather precarious. I have never tried to any extent, but some have raised twenty or thirty bushels per acre.

My method of raising corn is to plough the ground deep, then mark it one way with my single shovel plough, about five inches deep, and about four feet apart, each way; (any thing that will make a mark will do for one way;) the corn is then dropped four kernels in a hill. I then take my two-shovel plough, and set the shovels apart, so as to drive the horse in the furrow, and turn the dirt from each side on the corn. This plan I find is very beneficial in wet weather, in carrying the surplus water off the hills. Just as it is coming up, I take my harrow, and knock the centre teeth back so as not to drag up the corn; I then take my team and drive with one horse on each side of the row, taking one row at a time, and harrow it all over. This leaves the ground in fine condition. After a few days, I take my two-shovel plough, and go through it twice in a row, both ways; and if I have time, I go through it three times. This leaves the ground in fine order, and the corn, I think, fills out much better. I have grown corn, with stalks upwards of nine feet in length, and ears thirteen inches in length, and nine and a half inches

in circumference ; but these were extraordinary specimens, having grown where some straw had been burned the fall before. My corn is a larger kind than most of that grown throughout the country, and yields from fifty to seventy or eighty bushels per acre. The time for planting is from the first to the middle of May, or even earlier. One man can tend forty acres, provided he can have help to go through it with the plough the first time.

I have raised fifty bushels of oats per acre, and nearly two hundred bushels of potatoes ; but they are not so sure. I find by experience that they do best planted about the middle of May, that they may be well advanced by the time the hot weather comes on ; or, not till after the middle of June, that they may have the benefit of the September rains. But last season late planted potatoes with us were almost an entire failure. I find, by experience, that crops of all kinds do best put in early.

For grazing, I think our lands may be ranked among the best, if rightly managed. The dry land stock down with red clover, or timothy and clover, and the wet portions with red top. Clover does extremely well, and yields an abundant supply of feed. Timothy does better after the land has been cultivated for a short time. A slight dressing of manure, to change the nature of the soil, is a great help to it. Selling crops on the ground is not much practiced, but, as a general rule, I believe, about twice the freight from the station to Chicago, may be considered the difference in the price of produce at the station. Help last season was scarce, and wages very high, varying from \$14 to \$18 per month, for seven or eight months together. The increase in value per acre would depend much on the size of the tract cultivated. A small farm would be worth more per acre, with the same improvements, than a very large one. For example, take 160 acres, purchased at \$10 per acre :

First cost on 160 acres, at \$10 per acre,.....	\$1,600 00
Breaking 100 acres, at \$2 25 ".....	225 00
160 rods fence, on front side or road, \$1 per rod,.....	160 00
Half of the other three sides,.....	240 00
Building house, &c.,.....	500 00
Fruit Trees, &c.,.....	25 00

Amounting to.....\$2,750 00

It is probably now worth \$25 per acre, which will be.....\$4,000 00

Leaving a profit for owner of.....1,250 00

Or, at \$20 per acre, still leaves a balance of.....450 00

It is probable that the fence may be built for a little less than one dollar per rod ; but as I have made no allowance for cross-fences, yards, &c., and calculated only half of three sides, and one whole side for the road, I think the excess of price will not more than pay the expense of building the necessary fences inside. I have also left sixty acres for meadow

and pasture. If the purchaser have means to make the necessary improvements, or most of them, I think he would do well to settle on such lands.

From my own experience, I think the statements of Mr. Wight, editor of the "Prairie Farmer," all as near correct as can well be calculated. Spring wheat is rated a little below. But I have not paid extra attention to the growing of oats, and not much to wheat. A great portion of the lands through which the Illinois Central Rail-Road passes I have not seen, but judging from what I have, and the descriptions of those who are considered good judges, I should pronounce it an excellent tract. I will now state my reasons for selling out where I was. Not having any help of my own, I was obliged to do all myself, or hire, and to get good hands was often difficult and expensive. I therefore concluded to sell, which I did, for \$30 per acre, (200 acres,) as I stated, and live a little easier. I have in another place there yet seventeen and a half acres, and of an island seven and a half, both of which I have offers for, and think I shall sell them.

Yours, respectfully,

H. H. HENDRICK.

LETTER OF W. R. HARRIS.

PALMYRA, LEE Co., Ill., *Feb.* 17, 1853.

MR. CHARLES DU PUX, JR.:

Sir,—In reply to your inquiries in regard to Illinois farming, I will state that I commenced here in the spring of 1847, with a capital of \$700, with which I purchased twenty acres of timber and one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land. The first season I broke up fifty-five acres with a pair of horses and one yoke of oxen, breaking two acres per day. The third year I added eighty acres to my farm, and hired fifty acres broke, at \$2 per acre. The fourth year I hired ten acres more broke, at \$2 25 per acre, which gave me one hundred and fifteen acres under cultivation. This is all that I have had under cultivation, and I have sold the product this year for over \$2,000. I have now been engaged here about eight years, and my capital of \$700 has increased to between \$8,000 to \$10,000.

We generally plant corn from the first to the twenty-fifth of May. The usual crop of sod corn will about pay for breaking, and the cost of raising. It will hardly come off in time for sowing fall wheat, but the ground will be in good order for sowing spring wheat, which will probably yield from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre. After the first



season, the average crop of corn is sixty bushels (shelled) per acre. One man, with a pair of horses, will tend forty acres of corn, and do it well. Our grain sells at the rail-road stations at about ten cents per sixty lbs. below the Chicago prices. The prairies are first rate grass lands, and well adapted to the raising of all kinds of stock. Wages vary from \$15 to \$20 per month.

Yours, &c.,

W. R. HARRIS.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM H. BRADLEY, OF ROCKTON, ILL.

"I plough the ground very deep, then mark it two feet each way; then proceed to plant with a hand-planter, two rows at a time. Within five or six days, (just before the corn comes out of the ground,) brush the ground over with a light drag with short wooden teeth, thus displacing the weeds on the surface, and leaving it as smooth as an onion bed. Within a fortnight after the corn gets up, go through it once in a row each way with a corn plough, and the work of cultivation is done. Now is not this comparatively a cheap way of raising corn? I shall have at least sixty bushels per acre *this dry season*, besides having double the usual amount of fodder. \* \* \* One man will plant as fast with the machine as four will with hoes, and do the work much better than can be done with the hoe, as the machine is so nicely adjusted as to drop from three to five kernels, pricking them all within the space of an inch and a half square, thus giving a much better chance to run the plough close to the hill, than if the hill occupied from four to six inches square, as it does planted with a hoe."

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The *Illinois State Register* gives an account of a crop of corn grown by J. N. BROWN, Esq., of Sangamon county. His address is Berlin post-office.

"Mr. Brown broke up a field of forty acres, which had been in grass eighteen years, and planted it in corn. The corn might have been put in hills a little thicker than usual, and the after culture was tolerably thorough. Some three or four weeks ago, nine acres of the land was measured off, being the poorest part of the field, and the corn gathered and husked, when it was found that the nine acres averaged ninety-five bushels an acre, which was satisfactory evidence (the poorest part of the field having been measured) that the whole forty acres would average full *one hundred bushels* to the acre.

"This incident is mentioned as an evidence that the soil of Central Illinois does not deteriorate. Mr. Brown is of opinion, that by a proper rotation of crops, our soil will improve, and be made to produce richer yields than it does even now. \* \* \* \*

"In a conversation we had with Mr. Brown, he assured us that the land had never been manured, and that if it had received as much attention as is usual in the older States, the crop would have been much larger."















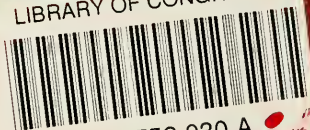








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